Reduction of posts in the Railways

707. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be plea sed to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news-item published in Statesman (Calcutta) dated the 13th June, 1992 regarding reduction of posts in the Railways; and

(b) if so, what is the factual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A number of studies on manpower planning have been done since cost of manpower constitutes 62 per cent of working expenditure. The studies are all aimed at improving productivity of staff and to ensure that people with right skills are available at the right time. Recruitment will be done on this basis. No instructions have been issued to re-recruitment by 20,000 annually as stated in the newspaper report.

Deteriorating conditions of the coaches in the trains

708. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be plea sed to state:

(a) whether Government are aware *at* the deteriorating conditions of the II class and 3-tier coaches in the trains leading to immense misery to the passengers;

(b) whether the maintenance of the coaches is commensurate with the rising demands of more passenger trains; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government propose to tackle the situation where the maintenance of the coaches is getting poorer day by day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There is no such deterioration.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. The Railways take all possible steps to maintain the coaches upto the standard laid down by the Passenger Amenities Committee. However, rampant van dalism/thefts in certain sections take a heavy toll of amenity fittings and at times it becomes difficult to make good the deficiencies promptly.

Convewion of metre gauge Hallway lines

709. DR. ABRAR AHMED;
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS •be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to convert metre gauge railway lines in various parts of the country into broad gauge by 1996-97;

(b) if so, what are tge details on. the lines to be converted Region-wise; and

(e) what would be the estimated cost of conversion of one kilo metre railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) An action plan for converting MG/NG lines to BG to move towards uni-gauge has been drawn up. 6,000 kms. of MG/NG lines under this action plan are proposed to be converted by 1996-97 i.e., end of the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) A Statement showing details of lines included in the action plan